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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of

Attorney Docket No.: Q67541

Noboru YAMAJI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/009,332

Group Art Unit: 1614

Confirmation No.: 3848

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 10, 2001

For: NOVEL METALLOPROTEASE HAVING AGGREGANASE ACTIVITY

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JUL 31 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A purified metalloprotease, comprising an amino acid sequence represented by amino acids 213-583 of SEQ ID NO:1, or an equivalent of said metalloprotease, wherein said metalloprotease has aggrecanase activity.

2. (Amended) A purified metalloprotease, comprising an amino acid sequence represented by amino acids 1-583 of SEQ ID NO:1, or an equivalent of said metalloprotease, wherein said metalloprotease has aggrecanase activity.

3. (Amended) A purified metalloprotease, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of an amino acid sequence represented by amino acids 1-950